

**EBIO 116: FRESHMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
SPRING 2018**

Instructor:	Shannon Carter	Time:	Tuesday 4:00-5:15pm
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COURSE OVERVIEW: EBIO 116 is a seven-week seminar course designed to introduce prospective biology majors to exciting ecology and evolution research at Rice. Small groups will meet to explore research opportunities at Rice, read scientific papers, and tour Rice research labs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: There are two main goals of this course: (1) Develop familiarity with the research in ecology and evolutionary biology happening at Rice, and (2) Practice reading scientific literature. Specifically, you will:

1. Develop skills to find, interpret, and evaluate scientific literature
2. Learn to identify and assess potential research advisors
3. Develop the confidence and skills needed to join research lab

TEXTS: There is no textbook for this course. We will read the following two scientific articles, which will be made available through Canvas:

1. Weinersmith, K.L., S.M. Liu, A.A. Forbes, and S.P. Egan. 2017. Tales from the crypt: a parasitoid manipulates the behaviour of its parasite host. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 284:20162365.
2. Malfi, R.L., S.E. Davis, and T.H. Roulston. 2014. Parasitoid fly induces manipulative grave-digging behaviour differentially across its bumblebee hosts. *Animal Behaviour* 92:213–220.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: Letter grades will be given reflecting your performance on written homework assignments and class participation. I expect that students who attend all class meetings, positively contribute to every discussion and put a good-faith effort into every homework assignment will be able to earn an A. This is not an easy A — the homework will be challenging and time-consuming and the readings are difficult — but it is an A that should be attainable by all students who choose to put forth the effort.

ITEM	POINTS
Attendance & Participation (100 pts/meeting)	700
Homework 1-6 (100 pts/assignment)	600
TOTAL	1300

Attendance & Participation: To ensure productive discussion, it is critical that you are present at each of the meetings of this course. Thus, attendance is required. Should you miss a meeting due to a documented illness or emergency, you may recover some or all of the points by attending an EEB departmental seminar on your own (a schedule of seminars will be provided for you to choose from) and submitting a 1-page summary of the seminar. It is important to be on time for all class meetings and activities. Being late will negatively impact your participation grade for that session.

Homework Assignments: Upload all homework assignments to Canvas with file name “YourNameHW#.doc” by 10am on the day of the class meeting. Late homework will result in a penalty of 10% per day late. To foster an environment conducive to exploration, student homework will be evaluated not as correct or incorrect but on the basis of effort, curiosity and

insight. A good-faith effort on homework requires that students be intellectually engaged in the material and attempt to thoughtfully answer every question. When stumped by a question, students should explain in their answer where they became lost or confused. Incomplete/minimal answers, blank answer fields or non-answers (e.g., “I don’t know”) do not indicate significant intellectual effort and will not receive credit.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

DATE	DUE TODAY (morning of class)	IN-CLASS TOPIC
1/9	NA	Course overview; lecture and discussion on scientific inquiry; learn tips for reading scientific literature
1/16	Read abstract, intro, and methods of <i>Weinersmith et al.</i> and complete HW1	Discuss abstract, introduction and methods of <i>Weinersmith et al.</i> ; overview of Rice EEB faculty
1/23	Read results and discussion of <i>Weinersmith et al.</i> and complete HW2	Discuss results and discussion of <i>Weinersmith et al.</i> ; lecture on finding a research lab at Rice to work in
1/30	Visit the Egan lab website and complete HW3	Tour Dr. Egan’s lab; research potential labs to join at Rice
2/6	Read <i>Malfi et al.</i> and complete HW4	Discuss <i>Malfi et al.</i> ; prepare for lab tours
2/13	Visit the Rudolf lab website and complete HW5	Tour the Rudolf lab; research potential labs to join at Rice
2/20	Peruse all faculty websites and complete HW6	Field trip to the HMNS Cockrell Butterfly Center

DISABILITY SUPPORT: If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please inform your instructor to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Allen Center. For more information visit the Rice Disability Support Services site (www.dss.rice.edu).